



BD F



South Carolina  
Department of Transportation

DM0998

December 23, 1998

**MEMORANDUM TO GROUP LEADERS & CONSULTANTS**

**SUBJECT:** Joints in Bridge Barrier Parapet/Railing Wall

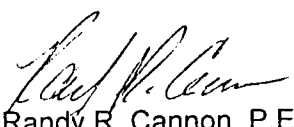
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This memorandum replaces the previous March 25, 1997 memorandum.

The AASHTO LRFD Design Specifications in Article 9.4.3 states that barrier parapets should be made structurally continuous without joints between bridge deck expansion joints. Field observations of bridge projects constructed with open joints in the barrier confirm the presence of deck cracks at the joint locations.

Future projects shall be detailed without joints in the barrier parapet/railing wall except where required to match bridge deck expansion joints. Projects that are detailed need not be changed but the following note should be added to the control joint detail shown in the plans.

"At the Contractor's option, control joints may be deleted and the barrier parapet/railing wall reinforcing made continuous between the bridge deck expansion joints. All cost for this option shall be at the Contractor's expense."

  
Randy R. Cannon, P.E.  
Bridge Design Engineer

cc: Assistant Bridge Design Engineers  
File: PC/REL

